

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: Claims 2, 3, 5, 14, and 15 are canceled, as being drawn to a non-elected Species, the election having been made without traverse on 3/4/08.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest the claimed invention as a whole including a liner installation ring forming a circular step portion inside the cylinder, and disposed in said cylinder block or said cylinder liner in such a manner that a bottom face of the liner installation ring faces to an uppermost portion of said cylinder liner, the circular step portion protruding to an inner periphery of said cylinder liner, wherein said liner installation ring is disposed at a position in accordance with a top end position of said top land portion when said piston reaches a top dead center, a circular projection, in a tapered shape, inclining downwards to the inside of the cylinder from a crosspoint of the bottom face of said liner attachment ring and the inner periphery of said cylinder liner, is formed on the bottom face of said liner installation ring along an inner peripheral end thereof, an angle that a tapered surface of said projection forms with the inner periphery of said cylinder liner is in a range of 45 degrees to 60 degrees, and said liner installation

ring is set to protrude from the inner periphery of said cylinder liner in an inward direction at a length of 0.05 mm or more to 0.4 mm or less, in the context of an internal combustion engine comprising a cylinder block having one or more cylinders, a cylinder liner with a tubular shape, disposed inside said cylinder, a piston reciprocating inside said cylinder liner and having a top land portion formed of an outer periphery of the piston sandwiched between a piston head and an uppermost ring groove..

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marguerite J. McMahon whose telephone number is 571-272-4848. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 10am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Cronin can be reached on 571-272-4536. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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